

On the *West Bank*

## COMMENTARY

# Oswald was JFK's sole assassin: Here's how he did it

David Barnes

Lee Harvey Oswald, and only Lee Harvey Oswald, as a soldier shooter, could have murdered President John F. Kennedy. The Warren Commission report summarized this, while at the same time proving it could not be done by a single living marksman, no matter how good and how many times that person tried. The best shooter the FBI could find took half again as long as the Zapruder film of the assassination showed.

My investigation shows how the assassination was done by a lone gunman, Oswald. The Zapruder film shows Kennedy was hit twice in about 1/4 seconds. Oswald was shooting a bolt action rifle. The Warren Commission report says no living expert can do that. The fastest time the FBI managed was 2.3 seconds. That also means Oswald, or any other human, certainly could not have done the shooting alone.

The problem is to resolve the shooting time, an established and untenable fact, with what is humanly possible. This was not done by the Warren Commission or any of the investigating writers heretofore. Some of the clues the Warren Commission saw and even hushed were not recognized as clues.

Here are six clues: the shooting time of 1/4 seconds; the paraffin test of Oswald's right cheek; the position of the boxes on the floor of the School Book Depository; the position of the boxes at the window; the cut on Oswald's left eye; and the sling on Oswald's rifle. These are all noted facts. Each one has at least two Warren Commission exhibit numbers.

The sling clue is the most obvious, easiest to comprehend and least understood. The expert's tripped over it.

The old military rifle Oswald used has a standard broad



LEE HARVEY OSWALD, with bruised left eye,

talks to the press after the assassination of

President John F. Kennedy.

the reversed sling. How can this be an advantage in shooting? If you put the sling backward around the left shoulder, instead of forward to the usual forearm supporting the front of the rifle, the left hand can trigger the weapon and grip the stock in place of the right hand.

Now, the right hand operates only the bolt. It does nothing else. There are no wasted motions of the trigger hand to the bolt and back to the trigger. The cycling time of the weapon is much quicker.

The front of the rifle is unsupported, therefore, it

needs boxes or some support to hold it up. The gun can

now operate extremely rapidly. Two photos of Oswald

dated prior to the assassination show Oswald wearing a

band gun and holding his rifle. The wide part of the

sling is toward the butt of the rifle. This shows that Os-

wald wanted the sling that way for a reason. I tested the

theory using a borrowed rifle.

I took a tape recorder and a stop watch to the rifle

range. I shot 10 groups of two shots each. In all but one

group I was able to get two shots off in 1 1/2 seconds or

less, using what I believe was Oswald's method. My one

failure was still under two seconds. My worst time beat

the best FBI time.

I am a right-handed amateur. I never have had any

formal training with a rifle, though I have been trained

with a handgun.

How does this go along with the paraffin test of the

right cheek? That test was negative. It should be, if Os-

wald shot the rifle from the left shoulder.

In no way did the rifle touch Oswald's right cheek.

Oswald obviously outshot all the FBI sharpshooters,

most of whom were far superior to Oswald as a rifle-

man. So Oswald must have somehow done something

different. But everything was normal, that is, except for

If someone shot from the left shoulder, looking

down the telescope sight, might he in the process cut

his right eye? Certainly not. But he might cut his left

eye which we have figured to be the shooting eye.

It looks exactly as if he had been hit with a cocktail

cartrige that was about three-fourths of an inch in diameter.

It's a precise match for the cut the receding scope

would leave. If the cut had been caused by a hit, above

palm or so on, the tissue around the eye would be more

heavily bruised.

This cut was shown on many, many different photo-

graphs. It is written in the Warren report that Oswald

was asked what caused the cut. His answer was, "A por-

tock hit me." The commission accepted the word of

the liar and murderer. (Oswald had also killed a police-

man) without serious cross-examination. This cut points

toward the left-shoulder theory and tends to confirm it.

The FBI says Oswald did his shooting from the back

depotitory. Photos of the area showed boxes in the win-

dow. Something was necessary to hold up the weapon

at the rear end of the rifle. The bullet in the window

confirms the left-shoulder theory. If anyone fired from

the right shoulder, those boxes would be in the way.

Only by shooting from the left shoulder can any per-

son rest among the boxes on the floor comfortably and

shoot well.

I believe the rifle can actually be fired three times in

that second and a half. Oswald apparently practiced a

bit. We don't know. If anyone actively supported Os-

wald. From my limited readings, I don't think so. Mar-

ie Oswald watched her husband practice and possibly

shout. She was never asked how she shot or practiced.

David Barnes of San Pablo is a writer and former com-

missioner writer.

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Cont'd by Paul Hock  
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This reminds me of the  
shooting in the Eastwood  
"No Way movie".

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